

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Forum 7 – Should ASHRAE Develop a Separate IAQ Standard for the Hospitality Industry?

Sunday, January 13, 2002

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Room 302, Atlantic City Convention Center

Sponsor: Standards Committee

Moderator: Rich A. Evans

Co-Moderator: Ronald E. Jarnagin

APC Liaison: Donald C. Hardin

The hospitality industry is circulating a petition to request a separate IAQ standard. The PolicyC considered the idea of a separate hospitality standard at their April 2001 meeting. They decided against such. This forum was sponsored by the Standards Committee to promote the free exchange of ideas on this issue. The forum was conducted in accordance with ASHRAE Program Committee guidelines. Twenty-six of the eighty-three forum attendees made comments. Commenters represented the hospitality industry, consumers, non-smoking advocates, consulting and design engineers, legal experts, the tobacco industry and SSPC 62.1.

Summary of Comments for a Separate IAQ Standard for the Hospitality Industry

- The needs of the hospitality industry are being ignored
- ASHRAE does not understand the specialized requirements of hospitality facilities
- Standard 62 as it is being revised cannot be used by the hospitality industry
- No industry should be subject to a standard it cannot meet
- Smoking is legal. Smokers should be accommodated
- Customers will not come if they cannot smoke
- A separate standard should be developed by a committee with representation by engineers and hospitality workers
- A ventilation solution is needed to address the problem of second hand smoke
- The restaurant industry has not had a vote on SSPC 62.1
- No guidance is given in Standard 62 for the ventilation of restaurant smoking areas
- No safe exposure level has been determined for ETS
- No rule has been set by OSHA for ETS
- “One molecule of ETS will kill you” and “non-smokers will replace smokers in lost revenues” are myths
- The debate regarding the impact of ETS on health is a public policy concern and is not appropriate for ASHRAE
- ASHRAE standards should not set ETS levels
- There is no consensus within ASHRAE for the current standard

Summary of Comments Against a Separate IAQ Standard for the Hospitality Industry

- Smoking is the key issue in this debate
- The hospitality industry has no unique needs
- Cognizant authorities have determined that smoking is not safe
- ASHRAE should not move from a standard that requires safety to one that allows risk
- Standard 62 is a threat to the tobacco industry
- The hospitality industry with the help of the tobacco industry hopes to develop a separate standard to get around ETS health concerns
- OSHA withdrew action to set ETS levels because it would have pre-empted state and local activity undertaken to prevent smoking
- There is no acceptable level of risk/number for deaths due to ETS
- There is no loss of business because smoking is not allowed
- Standards 62.1, 62.2P, 161 and 170 already address IAQ concerns
- A separate standard would stretch ASHRAE resources
- A separate standard would mean less protection to patrons and the purchase of another standard by design engineers
- Delay development of a separate standard until an acceptable ETS concentration level is known
- ASHRAE has bent over backwards on this issue
- Application for SSPC 62.1 membership from the restaurant industry is encouraged

Other Comments

- Consider a guideline with informational material to address this issue
- ASHRAE can develop an acceptable ETS concentration level
- The hospitality industry should fund research to determine an acceptable ETS concentration level
- Would ventilation rates be more or less with a separate standard?
- Would the committee for a separate standard state the risks on which the standard is based?